

### REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed August 26, 2004. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-23 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-23 were rejected. Applicants amend Claims 1 and 12.

#### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,591,912 issued to Michael J. Spisak et al. (hereinafter "Spisak"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit...

The Examiner has stated that Applicant's prior arguments were not persuasive because the waves in Spisak "travel in a single direction", i.e., toward area A.

Applicants respectfully disagree and contend that the Examiner's position is contrary to English usage. When two things are said to be going in a single direction, it is usually meant that they are both going from point x to point y.

Furthermore, Applicant's meaning is meant clear by the use of the term "same direction" in both Claims 1 and 12 (the independent claims). In other words, the waves of the present invention travel in one direction that is the same for both.

However, to make the meaning of "same direction" and "single direction" more clear, Applicants have added to phrase "relative to each other" to Claims 1 and 12.

It is not obvious from Spisak to time shift waves that are both traveling in the same direction toward a defect. As stated in prior responses, particularly in the response filed November 25, 2003, the probes of Spisak are placed inside the pipe and are pointed at angles toward a defect.

Claims 1 and 12 recite additional limitations related to the probes and the waves, resulting in methods not obvious from Spisak.

For the reasons above, Claims 1 and 12 are allowable. The remaining claims are dependent on Claims 1 or 12, and are allowable for the same reasons.

**CONCLUSION**

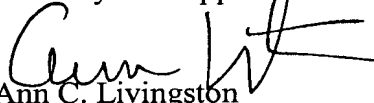
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful review of the application. Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and full allowance of the claims as amended.

Applicants believe no fee is due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2634.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicants

  
Ann C. Livingston  
Reg. No. 32,479

Date: October 26, 2004

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

AT CUSTOMER NO. **31625**

Telephone: 512.322.2634